

Application No. 09/827,310

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January 13, 2004

REMARKS

The Examiner rejects claims 2, 11, 12, 20, 21, 28, 30, 36 and 38 of the present application on the basis that these claims are of improper dependent form. According to the Examiner, these claims fail to limit the subject matter of the previous claim.

In response to the Examiner's objections, Applicant has now rewritten claim 2 of the application as an independent claim (new claim 55) and rewritten claims 12, 21 and 30 (new claims 56, 57 and 58) to depend from new claim 55. With respect to claims 11, 20, 28 and 36 of the application, Applicant has now amended these claims so that they provide the structural limitation that the vacuum ports further comprise vacuum port holes for independent regulation of vacuum pressure within each vacuum port. Applicant respectfully submits that with this amendment each of claims 11, 20, 28 and 36 structurally limits the claim on which it depends, namely claims 10, 19, 27 and 35 respectively. Applicant has cancelled claim 38 from the application.

The Examiner also objects to claims 37 and 38 of the application on the basis that these claims are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,186,878 to Lupke.

Applicant has now amended claim 37 to recite the further structural limitation that the vacuum ports further comprise vacuum port holes for independent regulation of vacuum pressure within each vacuum port. Applicant respectfully submits that while Lupke teaches a vacuum cooling mandrel for an extrusion die that has a single cooling channel and multiple vacuum ports disposed on the cooling mandrel, Lupke specifies that there is a single vacuum source through conduit 38 that communicates suction through the suction port 39 into channel 28 (column 5, lines 25-40). As such, suction diminishes in strength along channel 28 as it moves away from port 39. Unlike the present invention, Lupke does not teach a vacuum cooling mandrel in which the vacuum ports are individually regulated for independent control of suction at any section of the cooling mandrel. For this reason, Applicant submits that claim 37 as presently amended is

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not anticipated by Lupke. Applicant further notes that claim 38 has now been cancelled from the application and therefore the Examiner's objection with respect to this claim is moot.

The Examiner also objects that claim 54 of the application would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art in view of the combined teachings of Lupke in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,808,098 to Chan. The Examiner also notes a clerical error in the punctuation used in claim 54. Applicant has now cancelled claim 54 from the application.

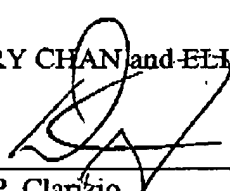
Applicant notes that it has also amended claims 36 and 47 to correct the claim dependencies in these claims.

We enclose a Claim Fee Calculation Sheet authorizing payment of the extra claim fees to be charged to our deposit account. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for same to our Deposit Account No. 500663. A signed copy of this page is enclosed if required for this purpose.

On the basis of these amendments and comments, favorably re-consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Executed at Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on January 13, 2004.

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DPC:AMP

Encl. Claim Fee Calculation sheet (in duplicate)

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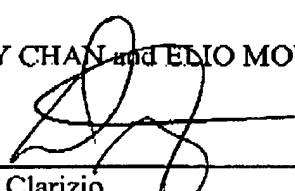
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